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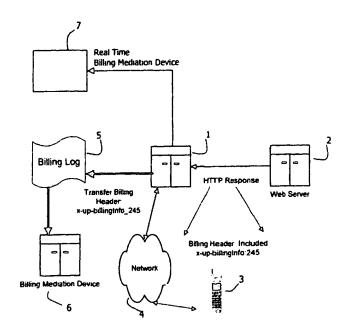
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#### (54) Title: A NETWORK GATEWAY-BASED BILLING METHOD



(57) Abstract: A gateway (1) routes signals between a WAP mobile phone (3) and an application on a Web server (2). The application generates a message for each of a number of events recognised according to the service being provided. These messages are transmitted to the gateway (1). A billing manager in the gateway (1) directs the messages in real time to a real time mediation device (7) if they relate to a pre-pay service, or alternatively to a billing log (5) for off-line processing. The network operator operating the gateway can thus charge in a manner relating to services provided instead of simply call duration.

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patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/IE 01/00016 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04L29/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) HO4L G06F H040 IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. WO 99 31610 A (BRITISH TELECOMM ; LEVERIDGE 1,18 PHILIP CHARLES (GB)) 24 June 1999 (1999-06-24) Υ abstract 2-17, 19 - 24page 7, line 23 -page 9, line 24 page 11, line 9 -page 12, line 5 page 2, line 2 - line 12 page 3, line 8 -page 5, line 18 US 5 873 030 A (PIMENTAL THELMA ET AL) 2-17. 16 February 1999 (1999-02-16) 19-24 abstract; figures 2C,3A column 2, line 41 -column 3, line 9 column 5, line 9 - line 20 column 8, line 45 -column 10, line 9 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the lart which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 20 July 2001 01/08/2001

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